

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 2095

E.O. 11652: GDS, 12/31/80

TAGS: MARR, US, NATO

SUBJ: CEP: HIGH LEVEL WORKING GROUP ON THE EMPLOYMENT AND
STATUS OF NATO CIVILIAN PERSONNEL IN TIMES OF CRISIS AND WAR

REF: AC/285-WP/17

1. REFERENCE DOCUMENT, REPRODUCED BELOW, INDICATES
POSSIBILITY OF A MEETING OF WORKING GROUP EARLY IN MAY.
SINCE WORKING GROUP HAS NOT MET SINCE JUNE 1972, MISSION
PROPOSES THAT DEPARTMENT REVIEW US INPUT, PARTICULARLY
WITH VIEW TO SEEKING CONSENSUS WITH CANADA, NETHERLANDS
AND UK (PARA 4 OF REF DOCUMENT). WASHINGTON COMMENT ON
PROPOSAL TO SEEK ADVISE OF ICRC, ALSO CONTAINED PARA
4 REF DOCUMENT, WOULD BE APPRECIATED.

2. COMMENT: THIS SUBJECT HAS BEEN DORMANT, AWAITING
RESULTS OF STUDY ON "SURVIVABILITY OF NATO HEADQUARTERS"
CONDUCTED BY COEC (AC/237). ALSO CONTRIBUTING TO DELAY
WAS TIME NEEDED TO DEVELOP AC/285-WP/16, WHICH PROVIDES
TENTATIVE BREAKDOWN OF STAFF REQUIRED IN TIMES OF CRISIS
AND WAR WITH THE PROVISIONAL TOTAL OF 769 INDIVIDUALS.
MISSION VIEW IS THAT NUMBERS OF THIS ORDER OF MAGNITUDE
ARE UNREALISTIC AND FURTHER SUPPORT U.S. POSITION AGAINST
ADOPTING THE CONCEPT OF SURVIVABILITY FOR COUNCIL AND SUPPORTING
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STAFF AND FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS INVOLVED. TO KEEP THESE
RELATED SUBJECTS IN TRAIN, USNATO PROPOSES THAT WASHINGTON AUTHORIZE
MISSION TO RECOMMEND THAT HIGH LEVEL WORKING GROUP BE DISBANDED
AND THAT ITS WORK BE PERFORMED BY THE COUNCIL OPERATIONS

AND EXERCISES COMMITTEE (COEC) (AC/237).

3. BEGIN TEXT -

WORKING PAPER
AC/285-WP/17

HIGH LEVEL WORKING GROUP ON THE EMPLOYMENT
AND STATUS OF NATO CIVILIAN PERSONNEL
IN TIMES OF CRISIS AND WAR

NEXT MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP

NOTE BY THE CHAIRMAN

ALTHOUGH NOT ALL THE NATIONAL AUTHORITIES HAVE YET
COMMENTED ON THE SUGGESTIONS I MADE AT OUR LAST MEETING
CONCERNING THE EMPLOYMENT AND STATUS OF NATO CIVILIAN
PERSONNEL IN TIMES OF CRISIS AND WAR, IT WOULD NOW SEEM
APPROPRIATE AND TIMELY FOR THE WORKING GROUP TO MEET AGAIN
IN THE RELATIVELY NEAR FUTURE. I WOULD, THEREFORE, BE MOST
GRATEFUL IF DELEGATIONS WHICH HAVE NOT YET DONE SO, COULD
FORWARD AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, PREFERABLY IN WRITING, NATIONAL
COMMENTS SO THAT THE WORKING GROUP CAN BE MORE FRUITFULLY
CONVENED EARLY IN MAY.

2. IN ORDER TO HELP NATIONAL AUTHORITIES IN THEIR
PREPARATIONS FOR THIS MEETING, IT MIGHT BE USEFUL TO REVIEW
THE SITUATION AS IT HAS DEVELOPED SINCE OUR LAST MEETING.
YOU WILL RECALL THAT AT THAT MEETING IN MY OPENING REMARKS
I DIVIDED THE PROBLEM INTO TWO CATEGORIES. FIRST, THE
EMPLOYMENT OF NATO CIVILIAN PERSONNEL I.E. HOW TO RETAIN
AND OBTAIN THE REQUIRED PERSONNEL AND WHAT MEMBER COUNTRIES
NEED TO DO TO PERMIT THE RETENTION OF THEIR NATIONALS BY
NATO OR TO ALLOW THEM OR OBLIGE THEM TO JOIN THE ORGANIZATION
OR REMAIN WITH IT. THE SECOND ASPECT OF THE PROBLEM
CONCERNED THE STATUS OF SUCH PERSONNEL WHO WOULD BE EMPLOYED
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BY NATO IN TIMES OF CRISIS AND WAR ARE ALSO THAT OF THEIR
DEPENDENTS.

3. CONCERNING THE EMPLOYMENT OF PERSONNEL, IT BECAME
CLEAR THAT THIS WAS A MATTER WHICH COULD ONLY BE RESOLVED
BY THE NATIONS THEMSELVES AND THAT IT MIGHT BE NECESSARY FOR
SOME GOVERNMENTS TO PREPARE CONTINGENCY LEGISLATION TO THIS
END. THE NECESSITY FOR THE ORGANIZATION AND ITS SUBORDINATE
BODIES TO RETAIN AND ACQUIRE STAFF IN TIMES OF CRISIS AND WAR
WAS GENERALLY RECOGNIZED. IN ORDER TO HELP NATIONS IDENTIFY
THE STAFF REQUIRED, THE INTERNATIONAL STAFF WAS ASKED TO
CIRCULATE A LIST SHOWING LIKELY PERSONNEL REQUIREMENTS. THIS
HAS NOW BEEN DONE IN WORKING PAPER AC/285-WP/16. IN PAPERS

CIRCULATED RECENTLY, ONLY THE CANADIAN DELEGATION HAS SPECIFICALLY COMMENTED ON THE EMPLOYMENT ASPECT AND I WILL BE ASKING THE DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATION AND PERSONNEL TO RESPOND AT OUR NEXT MEETING TO THE CANADIAN DELEGATION'S REQUEST FOR FURTHER IDENTIFICATION OF THE POSITIONS OCCUPIED BY CIVILIANS AND WHICH WILL CONTINUE TO BE OCCUPIED BY CIVILIANS IN THE EVENT OF ARMED CONFLICT.

4. TURNING TO THE QUESTION OF STATUS, VALUABLE COMMENTS ON THE PROPOSAL I MADE, NAMELY, THAT NATO CIVILIAN PERSONNEL

AND THEIR DEPENDANTS BE GRANTED THE STATUS OF PERSONS WHO ACCOMPANY THE ARMED FORCES WITHOUT ACTUALLY BEING MEMBERS THEREOF AS FORESEEN IN THE THIRD GENEVA CONVENTION, HAVE BEEN CIRCULATED BY THE CANADIAN, NETHERLANDS AND UNITED STATES DELEGATIONS. THESE COMMENTS, UNFORTUNATELY, DO NOT REACH IDENTICAL CONCLUSIONS AND THERE WILL, THEREFORE, BE A NEED FOR A FURTHER EXCHANGE OF VIEWS IN ORDER TO SEEK A CONSENSUS ON THIS PARTICULAR QUESTION. RELATED TO THIS IS A PROPOSAL MADE BY ANOTHER DELEGATION, NAMELY THAT THE SECRETARY GENERAL MIGHT OBTAIN AN OPINION FROM PROFESSOR J. PICTET, VICE PRESIDENT OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS, AND AUTHOR OF THE COMMENTARIES ON THE 1949 GENEVA CONVENTIONS, ON THE LEGAL ASPECTS OF HOW THE THIRD AND FOURTH GENEVA CONVENTIONS MIGHT OR MIGHT NOT APPLY TO NATO CIVILIAN PERSONNEL. IN THIS CONTEXT, IT MIGHT BE CONSIDERED WHETHER SUCH AN APPROACH WOULD BE APPROPRIATE FOR THE SECRETARY GENERAL OR WHETHER IT

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MIGHT BE PREFERABLE FOR A MEMBER NATION TO DO SO ON HIS BEHALF AND ON BEHALF OF THE ALLIANCE AS A WHOLE.

(SIGNED) P.PANSA CEDRONIO

END TEXT.RUMSFELD

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<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

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